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# ESCRICK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

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1918.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
ESCRICK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR 1918.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Escrick  
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1918.

The area of the District is 30,292 acres.

The estimated civil population is 5,209.

## BIRTH-RATE.

The births registered are 77, 29 males and 48 females; 1 male and 2 females are illegitimate. The birth-rate is 14·7 per 1,000 of the population. In 1917 the rate was 14·5.

## DEATH-RATE.

The deaths registered are 108, 55 males and 53 females. The death-rate is 20·9 per 1,000 of the population; in 1917 it was 16·5. Deducting the deaths in the City Asylum and the population therefrom and non-residents, and adding the deaths of residents who have died outside the District, we get a total of 76 and a rate of 15·8. In 1917 the rate was 14·2.

The infantile mortality per 1,000 births registered is 65; in 1917 it was 92.

The Zymotic death-rate is 2·6; a high rate entirely due to the deaths from Influenza. In 1917 it was ·5.

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1918.

There were 63 deaths as follows (these do not include deaths in the City Asylum, or residents who have died outside the District, but include non-residents who have died within the District):—Cancer, 7; Bronchitis, 5; Influenza, 14; Pneumonia, 5; Heart Diseases, 5; Nephritis, 1; Tuberculosis, 4; Suicides, 1; Drowned, 1; other defined diseases, 20.

The deaths of the 2 non-residents were due to Drowning and Bronchitis.

There were 45 deaths in the City Asylum as follows:—Pneumonia, 9; Tuberculosis, 10; Cancer, 1; Nephritis, 2; Heart Diseases, 6; Dysentery, 1; Cerebral Syphilis, 1; other defined diseases, 15.

## AGES AT DEATH OF RESIDENTS WHO DIED IN THE DISTRICT.

Under 1 year, 4; 1 and under 5, 4; 5 and 15, 5; 15 and under 25, 8; 25 and under 65, 19; 65 and upwards, 19; of these 6 were between 70 and 80, and 9 between 80 and 90 years of age.

## CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGES OF RESIDENTS WHO DIED BEYOND THE DISTRICT.

Fifteen—9 males and 6 females—3 were 15 and under 25; 8 between 25 and 65; and 4 between 70 and 85 years of age.

Heart Disease, 2; Typhoid Fever, 2; Accidents, 2; Appendicitis, 2; Pneumonia, 1; Tuberculosis, 1; Nephritis, 1; Suicides, 1; other defined diseases, 3.

A resident of the City Asylum died outside the District.

## CASES OF SICKNESS REPORTED UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

Measles and German Measles, 18; Scarlet Fever, 5; Enteric Fever, 2; Diphtheria, 3; Erysipelas, 1; Tuberculosis, 6.

SCARLET FEVER.—5 cases, in 1917 we had 2. The first case was notified on March 25th in a house at Dunnington. A girl 5 years of age—she was satisfactorily isolated at home. On April 3rd two cases were reported at Dunnington, two girls 4 and 6 years of age, and on April 12th a third case in this house occurred. On my visit I found that one of these children had attended school to within a day or two of commencing with her illness. These three children were removed to the Fever Hospital. The fifth case, a mild one, was reported on September 2nd in a house at Fulford. The patient, a girl 13 years of age, attended school in York up to the commencement of her illness. I was unable to trace any definite history as to the origin of the fever. She was isolated at home.

DIPHTHERIA.—3, in 1917 we had 1. On February 4th a girl, 6 years of age, was notified from Dunnington. She was removed the same day to the Fever Hospital. She resided in a new house, the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory, and I could trace no history as to the origin. The second case also occurred at Dunnington, a child 2 years of age, and was removed on February 26th, the day of notification, to the Fever Hospital. I found the ashpit needed cementing and the ground floors were below the surface of the adjoining back yard. The third case was reported on December 23rd from a house in the Wheldrake Lane, Escrick—the patient, a young woman 18 years of age, was at once removed to the Fever Hospital. I could obtain no definite history as to the origin.

ENTERIC FEVER.—2, as against 6 in 1917. The first case occurred in May at the City Asylum, Fulford, a woman 32 years of age. No definite history as to the cause could be found, a most careful enquiry was made. On October 27th a man, 33 years of age, was notified at the Station House, Thorganby. He was removed to the York County Hospital. The case proved fatal. The drinking water on being analysed by Mr. Fairley, Public Analyst, was found wholesome. The drains were tested and no flaw found. The cause of the fever was probably due to offensive manure which was being delivered to Bubwith and adjoining stations amongst which the deceased had been in constant contact.

ERYSIPelas.—1 case. On February 5th a woman, 70 years of age, was reported from Dunnington, she was subject to attacks of this disease.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.—We had 18 cases, there were 105 in 1917. 9 adults and 9 children. No fatal cases resulted. At Elvington we had 4; Fulford, 5; Escrick, 3; Naburn, 3; Stillingfleet, 1; Dunnington, 1; Thorganby, 1. The disease was of a mild type.

TUBERCULOSIS.—6 cases against 9 in 1917, of these, 5 were Tuberculosis of the Lungs.—The first notified was a girl, 13 years of age, at Fulford, she left the District a few days later—the case proved fatal. The second was a man, 56 years of age, at Heslington. He was at Bridlington for a short time in the early stages of his illness and rapidly became worse on returning home, dying a few weeks later, his sister died of Phthisis some years ago. The third case occurred at Stillingfleet, a woman 25 years of age. She had Influenza followed by Broncho-Pneumonia about a month previously to being notified. I found her having proper medical treatment, and the house, a large one, was dry and healthily situated. The fourth was a girl, 11 years of age, at Dunnington. Apart from a stop drain which needed cementing, the premises were satisfactory. The child was under medical treatment and was having every care and attention. The fifth case was that of a woman, 56 years of age, at Scoreby. The rooms were on the ground floor. The house appeared to be dry, but lacking in sufficient air space, a brother of this woman who lived here about 8 years ago, had a chronic cough, and was believed to have died of Phthisis. The sixth case reported was that of a man, 72 years of age, at Fulford, with Tuberculosis of the Hip. He was removed to the York County Hospital for treatment. I personally visited and reported upon all the cases.

In the death returns two fatal cases of Tubercular Meningitis, children aged 5 and 10 years, and a case of Phthisis, a woman, 23 years of age, at Naburn have occurred which have not been as yet notified.

INFLUENZA.—This disease is not notifiable, but at the request of the Local Government Board, I am placing before you

some particulars of the recent epidemic. There were 14 deaths, giving us a rate of 2·6 per 1,000 of the population. The epidemic was general throughout the District during the last 3 months of the year, commencing early in October, and rapidly spreading, in many instances whole families being affected. The epidemic was at its maximum during the latter part of October and during the month of November, gradually abating in December. In the majority of fatal cases the Influenza was complicated with some disease of the respiratory organs, mostly Pneumonia and Bronchitis. In the effort to check the disease schools were closed, but little could be done in other directions of a preventive nature. Eight of the 14 deaths were at ages between 20 and 30 years of age.

**ANTHRAX.**—As you are aware a case of Anthrax was notified at Wheldrake, and was fully reported on both to you and the Local Government Board so that I need not repeat what has already been reported upon.

#### REARING OF INFANTS.

The infantile mortality rate shows satisfactory improvement. I would, however, again advise the Council to have the pamphlet on the "Rearing and Feeding of Infants," by Dr. Mitchell Wilson, re-distributed throughout the District. The Local Government Board are urging that all practical measures should be taken throughout the country to lower the mortality amongst infants. Fortunately your District is well supplied with good wholesome milk, which is essential to child life, and the Nurses, under the supervision of the East Riding County Council, are doing good work by giving help and advice where necessary.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

During the War this Act was not systematically carried out owing to the difficulty of getting the necessary work done, but the Council, I am pleased to say, are losing no time in making preparations to resume activity in this direction. Already, plans are being discussed for the erection of about 40 houses, which I estimate will meet the present shortage in the District.

On December 7th Mr. Falconer, Inspector of the Local Government Board, attended a special meeting of the Council to consider this matter.

A number of improvements have been made during the year to defective ash pits, privies, etc., but much remains to be done in the way of structural repairs, sanitary defects, lighting and ventilation in the older cottage property.

#### WAR TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

Arrangements are in force for the close co-operation with the Military Medical Officers on any sanitary or protective measures required. All cases of infectious disease in proximity to camps and troops are at once reported to the Principal Medical Officer. The health of the troops has been quite good.

#### TABLES.

No Tables of Statistics are being issued by the Local Government Board for the present year. I am, however, having them tabulated as heretofore as they will be required later.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

ALWYN RAIMES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

